

## REMARKS

### Present Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-55 are pending.
- Claims 23, 24, and 35-55 are allowed.
- Claims 1, 5-22 and 25-34 are rejected.
- Claims 2-4 are objected to.

### Allowed Claims 35-55

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office's allowance of claims 23, 24 and 35-55.

### Claims 2-4

Claims 2-4 were objected to and would be allowable if incorporated into the independent claim on which they depend.

In response, applicants have rewritten claim 2 to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2. Since claim 2 is now in condition for allowance, it follows that claims 3 and 4 are also now in condition for allowance.

## 102(b) Rejections

### Rejection of Claims 1, 5-11, 22, and 25-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office rejected claims 1, 5-11, 22, and 25-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rason et al. (US 3,843,896).

In response, applicants have cancelled claim 1.

Additionally, applicants have amended claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 22, 25, 27 and 28 to depend from claim 2 (instead of depending from claim 1). Since claim 2 is now in

condition for allowance, it follows that dependent claims **5, 6, 8, 10, 22, 25, 27** and **28** are also now in condition for allowance.

**Claims 7, 9, 11-18, 20-21, 26 and 29**

Claims **7, 9, 11-18, 20-21, 26** and **29** depend from claim **2**, either directly or indirectly. Since claim **2** is now in condition for allowance, it follows that dependent claims **7, 9, 11-18, 20-21, 26** and **29** are also now in condition for allowance.

**Independent claim 30**

Applicants have amended claim **30** to include the limitation wherein said interelectrode gap is less than about 10  $\mu$ m. As noted by the Office, *Rason et al.* do not teach an interelectrode gap less than 10 microns. Therefore, *Rason et al.* do not anticipate the present invention recited in claim **30**, and the rejection under 35 USC 102 is improper. Accordingly, claim **30** is now in condition for allowance.

**Claims 31-34**

Claims **31-34** depend from claim **30**. As presented above, applicants submit that claim **30** is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it follows that claims **31-34** are now in condition for allowance.

**103 Rejections**

**Rejection of Claims 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Office rejected claims **12-21** under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Rason et al.*

In response, applicants have amended claim **19** to depend from claim **2**.

Claims **12-21** depend from claim **2**, either directly or indirectly. Since claim **2** is now in condition for allowance, it follows that dependent claims **12-21** are also now in condition for allowance.

Claim **56**, which was never entered, was cancelled.

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**CONCLUSION**

Applicants have responded to each and every objection and rejection, and urge that claims 2-55 as presented are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request expeditious processing to issuance.

The Office is authorized to charge **Deposit Account # 19-0131** for any necessary fees regarding this response, in particular, for 1 new independent claim.

Respectfully submitted,

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